



SIERRA RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Department of Water Resources
DIRWM
PO BOX 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001
Attention: Joe Yun

December 23, 2010

Re: Southern Sierra IRWM Planning Grant Application

Dear Mr. Yun,

The Sierra Resource Conservation District (SRCD) covers all of eastern Fresno County from the Friant-Kern Canal to the summit of the Sierra, close to two million acres of critical watershed. We are not supported by tax dollars and rely solely on grant supported watershed projects. Our board of directors serve on a voluntary basis without remuneration of any kind. As stakeholders in the SSIRWM effort we wish to respond to the denial of the Southern Sierra IRWM Planning grant application recently reviewed by the California Department of Water Resources.

It is generally understood that there are limited resources available to the IRWM program on a statewide basis. However, based on the outcome of grants to be awarded – again, a severely disadvantaged part of California in the foothill and mountain region of the Sierra Nevada has been left out of any meaningful way in which to develop the capacity and capability to protect one of the most vital resources in the state of California at its source – an abundant and high quality supply of water that serves the needs of our urban and rural communities; agriculture and the environment.

Most of the region that we serve is severely disadvantaged. Yet today, our organization is not aware of any watershed, water resource management and/or planning initiatives that are being supported by the Department of Water Resources in the Sierra Nevada region that we serve – excepting for one Groundwater Local Assistance Program grant for \$50,000 in eastern Fresno County which SRCD received and is currently administering. Our expressed concern is the magnitude of the inequity impacting a region of California that is economically disadvantaged – and with significant natural resource protection and enhancement challenges. Most of the participants involved in the SSIRWMP process were minimally compensated – if at all. The grant proposal effort was developed on a stakeholder collaborative basis with local representatives of the Department of Water Resources – whom of which thoroughly understood the rationale, purpose, and funding allocation for the applicant and their proposal as submitted.

SRCD's concern is whether DWR's reviewers consulted with those within the Agency who closely participated in the development of this proposal. And, secondly – why again was the Southern Sierra Nevada region not funded in an equitable way – since it is one of the most severely disadvantaged regions of California? Our Board of Directors requests reconsideration of this very important application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Gary Temple". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "G" and "T".

Gary Temple, VP, Board of Directors

Cc: SRCD Board